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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Public Encouraged to Participate in Virginia Energy Plan Public Listening Session At The College of William and Mary

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) will hold a public listening session to receive public comments on and recommendations for the Virginia Energy Plan on Thursday, November 2, 2006, at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. The meeting is the fourth of five such public listening sessions being held across the Commonwealth to receive public comments on the development of a ten-year Virginia Energy Plan.

The Williamsburg listening session will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Tidewater Room A, in the University Center at The College of William and Mary. The DMME will use comments from the public as it drafts the Virginia Energy Plan. Previous meetings on the Plan were held in Abingdon, Annandale, and Lexington in September and earlier this month. One final meeting will be scheduled in the South Hampton Roads area.

The public listening session will be preceded by a meeting of the Virginia Energy Plan Advisory Group from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Tidewater Room A, in the University Center. The Advisory Group is composed of key leaders with an interest in Virginia energy matters that have been asked to provide input to the plan. Constituent groups represented by these leaders include consumers, local government and military, general business, environmental advocacy, electric and natural gas utilities, petroleum industry, energy extraction industry, and renewable and other energy interests.

The Virginia Energy Plan was established in Senate Bill 262, signed by Governor Timothy M. Kaine in May, to proactively assess and plan for Virginia's energy future. "The development of the Virginia Energy Plan is a key step in establishing how we will develop and conserve our energy resources in a manner that helps protect our environment while promoting continued economic development and vitality in the Commonwealth" Governor Kaine said "I strongly encourage public

involvement in the development of the plan as we continue to define our long-term energy policy.”

Secretary of Natural Resources L. Preston Bryant, Jr. will lead the Advisory Group work session, which will examine issues related to energy efficiency and conservation. “This meeting of the Virginia Energy Plan Advisory Group will examine the energy conservation tools economically available at the state level, the role of consumer education and various incentives, and energy efficiency and conservation in state facilities,” said Secretary Bryant. “We are eager to receive public input on these topics during our public listening session.”

The Virginia Energy Plan Web site, www.dmme.virginia.gov/vaenergyplan, will be updated with the latest information on plan development, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and links to other energy information. The public also may comment on the Virginia Energy Plan through the Web site. Citizens who are unable to attend the public listening sessions are encouraged to provide comments to DMME through the Virginia Energy Plan Web site.

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